

DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE

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ERIC ROTHMAN APPOINTED BOARD CHAIR OF DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE TO SUCCEED FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT ANDREA WOODNER



Eric Rothman, Andrea Woodner. Photo: Liz Ligon.
Courtesy of the Design Trust for Public Space

NEW YORK, NY (Monday, January 11, 2016) – The Design Trust for Public Space has appointed Eric Rothman, president of the consulting firm HR&A Advisors, as the Chair of its Board of Directors. He succeeds Andrea Woodner, Design Trust Founder and the Board President for its entire 20-year history.

After twenty years of visionary leadership, Andrea Woodner steps down from the Board to concentrate on the Design Trust Founder's Circle, a major donor group deeply committed to supporting the future of NYC, and to launch her new Hercules Art/ Studio program, providing affordable studio space and community for emerging artists in Lower Manhattan. Her dedicated efforts have helped transform both Design Trust into a nationally-recognized incubator for urban innovation, as well as the City itself. Claire Weisz, FAIA, co-founder and former co-director with Andrea Woodner also stepped down from the Design Trust Board after twenty years of service. Weisz will continue to support the Design Trust through the Founder's Circle and continued improvement of New York's public space through her practice at WXY.

Rothman, an expert in transportation planning and public-private development, was the Economic Policy Fellow for the Design Trust *Taxi 07: Envisioning New York City's Taxi System 10-Years Out* project from 2006-2010, and an economic advisor for the *Made in Midtown* and *Making Midtown* projects from 2010 to 2012. Joining the Design Trust Board in 2013, he has served on the Executive Committee, Finance Committee and as Design Trust Council co-chair. As Board Chair, Rothman will lead and guide the activities of the Board of Directors, including strengthening the Design Trust's capacity to have continued impact on public space and public life in NYC as it embarks on its next chapter.

"I'm grateful to so many that the Design Trust is running strong. I'm confident, under Eric's stewardship, quality and efficacy will continue to define this organization's work, indispensable to the daily life of New Yorkers. My twenty years at the Design Trust has really been engaging and inspiring. Never otherwise could I in my life have met and learned from such interesting and smart people, from such diverse and fascinating backgrounds, and have been able to walk with them and share ideas with them and learn from them," said Design Trust Founder Andrea Woodner.

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Andrea Woodner reflected on her inspiration to start the Design Trust for Public Space, “Twenty years ago ‘public’ was not a word associated with either space or design. Yet New York’s public sector was, as it had always been, full of talented designers, planners and policy makers who were drawn to the great and interesting possibilities of designing public libraries, esplanades and parks, but perennially lacking in resources. At the same time, cities were being newly valued largely due to their rich connective tissue of public space and infrastructure. The Design Trust was created to connect the burgeoning interest of the design community in cities with the great potential locked within the public sector.”

“When Andrea founded the Design Trust for Public Space twenty years ago, no other public or private sector organizations existed to bring creative minds together to effectively solve challenges of public space—where culture, connectivity and democracy thrive. This remains true today. It’s been a great privilege to work closely with Andrea. Eric will take up the baton and guide the Design Trust into our next twenty years,” said Design Trust Executive Director Susan Chin.

“I’m proud to lead the Design Trust Board and to continue Andrea Woodner’s great legacy. Andrea and her creation of the Design Trust catalyzed new thinking about public space, dramatically transforming the lifeblood of our city—its public buildings, streets, plazas, parks and infrastructure. The Design Trust’s work has raised people’s expectations for a higher quality of life; changed how city agencies operate; and resulted in new laws and regulations for a lasting, positive impact for the lives of New Yorkers. Finally, the Design Trust has elevated the careers of over 80 Design Trust Fellows, including me, who have led pivotal projects, ranging from the *High Line, Taxi of Tomorrow*, to *sustainability guidelines* and more. I am grateful to Andrea and Claire for their vision, and look forward to working with Susan, our outstanding staff, and Board of Directors in the years to come,” said Design Trust Board Chair Eric Rothman.

Eric Rothman

Eric Rothman, the new Chair of the Design Trust for Public Space Board of Directors, joined the Board in 2013. He is a partner and president of HR&A Advisors, Inc. (HR&A), an industry-leading real estate, economic development and energy efficiency consulting firm. HR&A has provided strategic advisory services for some of the most complex mixed-use neighborhood, downtown, campus and regional development projects across North America and abroad for over thirty years. Rothman is an internationally renowned expert in transportation planning, transit-oriented development, and economic development.

He served as a strategic consultant and project manager for the City of New York on its groundbreaking PlaNYC sustainability plan for 2030. He recently led the firm’s work on *BigApps*, an innovative civic technology competition, on behalf of the New York City Economic Development Corporation. He previously served as Director of Business Planning for Transport for London. Rothman holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University.

Andrea Woodner

Andrea Woodner founded the Design Trust in 1995 and was its Founding Director until 2000. She co-directed the organization with Claire Weisz from 2000 to 2003, and served as the board’s President from 1995 to present.

Woodner is also Board President of Elizabeth Streb Ringside, a dance company, and Vice President of ETHEL, a contemporary string quartet. She serves on the visiting committees of the Architecture and Design Department of the Museum of Modern Art and the Prints and Drawings Department of the Morgan Library and Museum.

She received numerous awards including the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter’s Award, *Interior Design* magazine’s *Hall of Fame*, and was named one of *New York Magazine*’s “Design Revolutionaries”. She attended Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and received a Master of Architecture degree from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and Planning. She received her Bachelors Degree from Bennington College.

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The Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City. Our projects bring together city agencies, community groups and private sector experts to make a lasting impact—through design—on how New Yorkers live, work and play. Design Trust’s projects jumpstarted the [High Line’s conversions](#) from derelict railway to a green corridor of open space, activated innovation for the first custom-built *Taxi of Tomorrow*, and developed the [sustainability guidelines](#) that became the precursor to New York City’s Local Law and PlaNYC. The Design Trust has received numerous awards, including 2011 Municipal Art Society of New York MASTerworks, 2015 American Institute of Architects NY Chapter (AIANY) Emerging New York Architects Committee (ENYA) and Design with Benefits MAKINGOODDESIGN, and 2015 American Society of Landscape Architects Olmsted Medal. <http://designtrust.org/>

The Design Trust for Public Space Board of Directors include Hugo Barreca, J.D.; Theodore S. Berger; James Biber; Matthew Casper; R. Darby Curtis, AIA; Johanna Flato; Paul Gangsei, J.D.; Maxine Griffith, AICP; Eric Gural; Ann Harakawa; Marc Heiman; Evie Klein; Zack McKown, FAIA; Paula J. Mueller, Esq.; Eric Rothman; Sylvia Smith, FAIA, LEED; Tim Tompkins; and Andy Wiley-Schwartz. <http://designtrust.org/people/board/>